Deaths due to starvation/malnutrition in tribal areas

†1969. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of tribal dominated areas in the country are in the grip of severe starvation/malnutrition deaths;

(b) if so, the names of the most affected tribal areas alongwith the number of persons which have died; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to improve the living conditions of these tribal people and progress report thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) No State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration has reported any starvation/malnutrition death.

(c) A quantity of 63.40 lakh tonnes of foodgrains was allocated by the Government of India to drought affected States during the year 2002-03 under the Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana. 41.55 lakh tonnes of foodgrains has been allocated so far during the current year under this scheme. Besides, a quantity of 2500 tonnes of foodgrains was allocated during 2002-03 for the Village Grain Banks Scheme in tribal areas. On their requests, a quantity of 14,900 tonnes of foodgrains has so far been allocated to the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa under the said scheme for the year 2003-04.

Between 1996-97 and 2002-03, Rs. 19.43 crore were released for establishing 1195 village grain banks in tribal area. Primitive Tribal households are among the priority groups to be covered under the expanded Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) during 2003-04.

Supply of rice under food for work programme

1970. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner Food Corporation of India checks that millers may not recycle the rice intended for the food for work programme and supply the same to it under levy; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the action taken to ensure that only rabi rice is procured under levy and not those intended for schemes like the food for work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) A Committee had been constituted by the FCI to suggest measures to check the recycling of rice being issued from FCI godowns under various Scheme to the State Governments Keeping in view the recommendations made by the Committee, Government has advised the State Governments to strictly enforce the following measures so as to ensure that the levy system is not misused by the rice millers to extract undue gains:—

(i) The State Government may ensure that millers have purchased paddy at MSP rates and issue a Certificate to this effect;

(ii) Complete and correct accounts may be insisted on by the rice millers on the quantity of paddy purchased, the quantity milled and the quantity which the miller is authorized to deliver;

(iii) Paddy should be purchased directly from farmers; and

(iv) Levy during the current season may be fixed only for the paddy purchased during the procurement season.

Construction of godown in Coochbehar

1971. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 972 given in Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 2003 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Senior Regional Manager, F.C.I. West Bengal Region had proposed to construct one 10,000 M.T. capacity godown at Coochbehar *vide* his letter dated the 7th September, 2001; and

(b) if so, the time-frame thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Senior Regional Manager, FCI, West Bengal addressed a letter dated 7th September, 2001 to various District